

Perfins on official stationery: a follow-up

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My article in the March *Bulletin* elicited several responses from members who also had official perfins stationery in their collections, or who offered more information. My thanks to Dave Anderson, John Jenkins, Irvin Holway, Bob Schwerdt, and Bob Traquair for sharing their data.

It would appear from the responses that New South Wales, as a separate colony and then as a state in the Australian

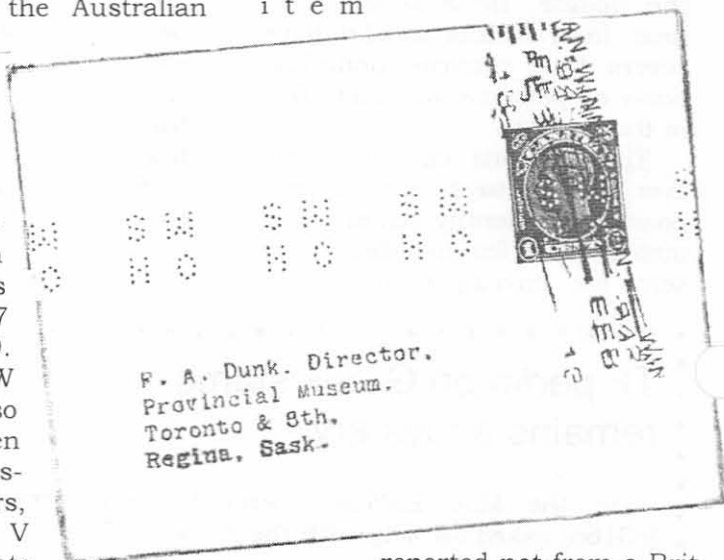
Commonwealth, was the champion user of official perfins postal stationery. Their OS/NSW pattern is known on postal cards from 1897 through 1949. The OS/NSW pattern was also used on Queen Victoria era newspaper wrappers, and on George V printed to private order envelopes. NSW's GR pattern—for Government Railways—is also known used on postal cards from 1896 to 1905, and on a newspaper wrapper. And finally, the G/NSW pattern has appeared on aerogrammes issued in 1960 and 1969.

Another Australian state—Tasmania—used their official "T" pattern on postal cards beginning with Queen Victoria issues through those of Edward VIII.

Canada used their OH/MS official perfins on newspaper wrappers. Both the 5-hole and 4-hole patterns are known. Surviving examples are scarce. A wrapper used by the Meteorological Division of the Dominion Weather Bureau is shown here, courtesy of Bob Traquair.

India also is known to have used official perfins on their stationery. Pattern C50 (C.M.C.) for the Kanchipuram Municipality and pattern K-16 (K.M.C.) for Karaikudi Municipality have been seen, as well as M.S (for Municipal Service).

A conclusion from the above could be drawn that British Commonwealth countries would be the most likely to have used official perfins stationery. The only item



reported not from a British area was from Russia (USSR?) with what appears to be crossed posthorns and lightning bolts through the indicia of a 40K envelope.

While not exactly official, former foreign catalog editor Bob Schwerdt reminds that many items of stationery are known with SPECIMEN perfins.

All who responded indicated that stationery official perfins are not common, and I would surmise that assembling a collection of even one example from each of the areas listed above would present quite a challenge. However, they could be lurking in collections or dealers' cover boxes.

My thanks to all who wrote.